

In the Specification:

No changes are made to the specification at this time.

In the Claims:

No new matter is introduced in the following amended and new claims. Support for new claims may be found in the specification at pp. 1, 9 and 10.

12. (Currently amended) A diagnostic method for detecting inflammatory bowel diseases and ~~associated with an autoimmune response to h-TM in affected tissue~~ diseases associated with inflammatory bowel disease in colon epithelial cells comprising detecting CEP-hTM complexes in a tissue, wherein the presence of CEP-hTM is indicative of the ~~disease~~ inflammatory bowel disease.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the CEP-hTM complexes are detected in extracellular space of a ~~the affected~~ the tissue.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the CEP-hTM complexes are detected in intracellular space of a ~~the affected~~ the tissue.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue is ~~colon epithelium~~ selected from the group consisting of musculoskeletal, skin and mouth, hepatobiliary, ocular, and the extracellular spaces of the large intestines.

16. (Canceled)

17. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of colonic type arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, hypertrophic osteoarthropathy, clubbing, periostitis and metastatic Crohn's disease.

18. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of erythema nodosum, pyoderma gangrenosum, aphthous ulcers, vesiculopustular eruption and necrotizing vasculitis.

19. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of fissures, fistulas, oral Crohn's disease, drug rashes.

20. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of acrodermatitis enteropathica, vitamin K and vitamin B purpura, disorders of the skin appendages, vitiligo, psoriasis, amyloidosis and epidermolysis bullosa acquisita.

21. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of primary sclerosing cholangitis, bile duct carcinoma, autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, pericholangitis, portal fibrosis and cirrhosis.

22. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein the diseases can be selected from the group consisting of uveitis, episcleritis, scleromalacia, corneal ulcers and retinal vascular disease.

22. (New): The method of claim 12 wherein inflammatory bowel disease includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.